Frequently Asked Questions about 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

F-1 visa Students

How does all-online instructions affect my visa status?

If you are enrolled in full-time classes for spring semester 2020 you are still considered in status for immigration purposes. This does not change even though the courses are moved to online. An exception is being made for students to complete their spring courses online while continuing to remain in the U.S. Remember that you must remain enrolled in your spring semester classes to maintain your visa status. If you choose to drop any classes it could negatively impact your immigration status. If you are enrolled in any classes that are unable to be converted into the online format and are cancelled, please contact Michael Hasfurther via email at: Michael.hasfurther@slcc.edu Please contact an international advisor for further questions.

Will International Student Services and other campus offices remain open for the rest of spring semester?

Yes, the College and other departments on campus will remain open at this time. International Student Services will remain open and we will post updates if things change. Appointments should be made through email, phone, or skype where possible to avoid transmission of the virus.

Questions about COVID-19 that is not related to my immigration status. Who to talk to?

You can review the College’s webpage for more information:
http://www.slcc.edu/safe/c19.aspx

Which countries are impacted by COVID-19 travel restrictions to the U.S.? If I am outside the U.S. what should I do?

Effective March 11th, the U.S. government has suspended entry for any non-U.S. citizens who were physically present within the following countries during the 14 day period preceding their entry to the U.S.: https://www.dhs.gov/news/2020/03/11/homeland-security-acting-secretary-chad-f-wolf-s-statement-presidential-proclamation

- Countries in the Schengen Area (beginning Friday, march 13th at midnight), which include: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland.
- People’s Republic of China (excluding Hong Kong and Macau)
- Islamic Republic of Iran
The College strongly recommends that you reconsider travel to any country with a CDC level 3 or State Department level 4 advisory based on the Novel Coronavirus. Those recommendations change frequently and can be monitored through the State Department:
https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories.html/
And CDC: https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices
Websites.

No other countries are impacted at this time, but the situation is changing daily. Please continue to monitor the news, airline travel information, and the College’s website for the latest updates.

**How long will these travel restrictions last?**

The U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services will monitor the situation. China and Iran travel restrictions will be monitored every 15 days after the date of the proclamation, and the Secretary will advise whether the restriction continue, change, or end. See February 29 Presidential Proclamation, section 5: https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/proclamation-suspension-entry-immigrants-nonimmigrants-certain-additional-persons-pose-risk-transmitting-coronavirus/

It is indicated that the countries in the Schengen Area will have travel restrictions imposed for the next 30 days.

We do not have confirmation of how long these travel restrictions will last and what additional countries may be added to the restrictions already in place. If you decide to travel, be prepared, understand the risks, and be advised that you might not be able to return to the U.S. for an unknown period of time, your trip could be disrupted, or you may be quarantined upon your return. If your travel is related to your academic program, please consult your department or academic advisor about your travel plans.

**I am currently in the U.S. but was planning to travel outside the U.S. soon. Should I cancel my trip?**

We do not know how long these travel restrictions will last and what additional countries may be added to the restrictions already in place. If you decide to travel, be prepared, understand the risks, and be advised that you might not be able to return to the U.S. for an unknown period of time, your trip could be disrupted, or you may be quarantined upon your return. If your travel is related to your academic program, please consult your department or academic advisor about your travel plans.

We encourage you to remain informed about these travel restrictions.
I am considering returning home for the remainder of the spring semester and possibly the summer semester as well. What should I do?

We understand your concern and want to reassure you that the College is taking necessary precautions. College administrators are carefully monitoring the situation to ensure the safety of our students, faculty, and staff.

If you choose to return home while completing your spring semester courses online remember to consider the possibilities of not being able to return to complete your education. If you choose to drop any of your spring semester classes it may affect your immigration status. Please consult with an international advisor with any questions regarding your situation.

If you choose to travel you will need a valid travel signature on your I-20 prior to departing the U.S. Please review your I-20 and check the last date of your travel signature. If you have received a travel signature AFTER September 1, 2019 then you still have a valid travel signature and do NOT need to have us sign your I-20. If you have a travel signature that is BEFORE September 1, 2019 then you DO need to have a new travel signature. You can receive a travel signature by making an appointment with your International Advisor at our office.

We do not know how long these travel restrictions will last and what additional countries may be added to the restrictions already in place. If you decide to travel, be prepared, understand the risks, and be advised that you might not be able to return to the U.S. for an unknown period of time, your trip could be disrupted, or you may be quarantined upon your return. If your travel is related to your academic program, please consult your department or academic advisor about your travel plans.

My F-1 visa in my passport has expired. Do I need to renew my F-1 visa?

If you leave the U.S. and then plan to reenter then you will need to renew your F-1 visa. If you plan to remain in U.S. then you do not need to renew your F-1 visa.

We do not know how long travel restrictions will last and what additional countries may be added to the restrictions already in place. If you decide to travel, be prepared, understand the risks, and be advised that you might not be able to return to the U.S. for an unknown period of time, your trip could be disrupted, or you may be quarantined upon your return. If your travel is related to your academic program, please consult your department or academic advisor about your travel plans.

Is summer term still a vacation?

Yes, summer term is the only semester that may be taken as a vacation unless it is your first semester at the College. If you are taking summer term as your vacation you may take as few as zero, or no, credits, or as many online classes as you wish during your vacation semester.
**I am currently on Post-Completion OPT. Do I need a travel signature?**

Students on Post-Completion OPT is required to have a travel signature that’s endorsed within the last six months from their re-entry date. If you need to obtain an updated travel signature, please make an appointment with your international advisor and submit your I-20 to our office.

Spring semester 2020 is my last semester. Can I depart the U.S. now, finish my online classes and return to the U.S. after the program end date to apply for Post-Completion OPT?

No, International Student Services does not recommend returning home if you plan to apply for Post-Completion OPT. You will not be able to return to the U.S. past the program end date on your I-20 if you have not applied for Post-Completion OPT. If you have questions, please make an appointment with your international advisor.

I am currently in a country impacted by the travel restrictions, and cannot return to the U.S. Can I provide a negative test result for COVID-19 to enter the U.S.?

The U.S. government is not allowing exceptions at this time. Continue to monitor the news or this web page for updates. If you have not yet been in touch with an international student advisor or your academic department then please email or call us to inform us of your situation.

**Can I travel to another country before traveling to the U.S.?**

If you plan to travel to another country before entering the U.S., be sure to review any travel restrictions in that country before making travel plans. Be aware that you must remain physically present outside of the country impacted by travel restrictions for 14 days or more before you will be allowed to enter the U.S. International Student Advisors cannot advise on travel to countries other than the U.S., so make sure you do your research and understand any restrictions or visa requirements before traveling.

We do not know how long travel restrictions will last and what additional countries may be added to the restrictions already in place. If you decide to travel, be prepared, understand the risks, and be advised that you might not be able to return to the U.S. for an unknown period of time, your trip could be disrupted, or you may be quarantined upon your return.

**Can I continue to work on campus? Will I still get paid?**

Yes, students are still eligible to work on campus, but please contact your supervisor with any question or concerns. Please remember students are still restricted to 20 hours per week for on-campus work during the Spring Semester, even if classes have been moved to online.

I am enrolled in a course that counts for Curricular Practical Training (CPT) and my employer has closed their office or is requiring me to work from home. Will this impact me and my approved CPT?
This depends, and may vary depending on completion of your course work and if you have met the curricular objective of your CPT. Please contact our office to schedule a phone appointment with an international student advisor to discuss your situation if there is any change to your authorized CPT dates or location of your work.

I've applied for OPT. What should I do?

Please review the following scenarios:

- I've applied for OPT and my application is pending: Monitor your mail and email for updates regarding the status of your application from USCIS.
- I've applied for OPT, received my EAD, and will start to work soon. My Employer still wants me to come in. Am I okay to do so? Please work directly with your employer if you have questions or concerns.
- I'm on OPT but my place of work is close. What should I do? Please contact our office by phone: 801-957-4528 to schedule a phone appointment with an advisor.

We do not recommend students to travel internationally when their Post-Completion application is pending with USCIS. We always recommend students to remain in the U.S. as they are required to show their EAD card when returning to the U.S.

We do not know how long travel restrictions will last and what additional countries may be added to the restrictions already in place. If you decide to travel, be prepared, understand the risks, and be advised that you might not be able to return to the U.S. for an unknown period of time, your trip could be disrupted, or you may be quarantined upon your return.

I need to pick up my I-20 at the office. How can I pick it up? Will you still ship my I-20?

Our office will remain open for students to pick-up your documents. We will notify you by email when your documents are ready for pick-up. If you do not receive an email to pick-up your documents then you may contact our office by phone, 801-957-4528. If you have follow up questions, you will be asked to make a phone appointment with one of the advisors.

Please note that our office will work to expedite documents as quickly as possible during this time, but our normal processing times will remain in effect.

To request express mail service, go to the eShipGlobal website at: [https://study.eshipglobal.com](https://study.eshipglobal.com) The site works best with Internet Explorer or Mozilla Firefox browsers. Do not go to the DHL or FedEx sites directly. You will be required to create your own user name and password in order to create an account.

Be sure you have the following items ready:

- Mailing address
• Email address
• Telephone number
• Credit card information
• Chose Department/Contact “International Student and Scholar Services” as the sender Upon completing your request.

eShipGlobal will send you an email that includes a tracking number for your shipment. If you experience any problems when using the online service, please use the help feature on their website.

Please note: Information is subject to change and we will update our office availability as new information comes in.

I received a call, text message, and/or email in regards to COVID-19 that is asking for my personal information or bank account details. Is this a scam?

Please be aware of scam texts, calls, and/or emails in relation to COVID-19. Salt Lake Community College, government agencies, CDC, and local health departments will NOT ask you to confirm your bank account, or detailed immigration information. Do not give out this information!

Some students report they have received a text message from the CDC about COVID-19. This is a hoax and not from the CDC.

I am a new student coming for summer semester 2020. How will this impact me?

All incoming students will receive a welcome email from our office in regards to next steps to prepare for arrival on campus. These emails and further instructions about your arrival will be sent out over the next few weeks. Please refer to these emails for the most updated information.

Who can I talk to for more information or if I am feeling anxious, depressed, fearful, or stressed?

International Student Services would be happy to assist you as well as point you to additional resources. The Center for Health and Counseling is another on campus resource that is available to you. They have professional mental health counselors that can provide further support.

To make an appointment with the Center for Health and Counseling please call:

• Taylorsville Redwood, 801-957-4268
• Jordan, 801-957-6211
• South City, 801-957-3323